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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

NIC #00581-88  
12 February 1988

## National Intelligence Council

MEMORANDUM FOR: Senior Review Panel

VIA: Acting Chairman, National Intelligence Council

FROM: Robert Blackwell  
National Intelligence Officer for USSR

SUBJECT: NIE 11/12-9-88: Soviet Policy Toward Eastern Europe Under Gorbachev

1. Attached for your comments is the precoordination draft for NIE 11/12-9-88: Soviet Policy Toward Eastern Europe Under Gorbachev.  
[redacted] A/NIO/Europe, is drafter.

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2. The Estimate examines Soviet-East European relations for the next three to five years, focusing particularly on potential challenges to Soviet control in the region and opportunities for US policy. It reflects the concerns of key policymakers at NSC, State and DoD, with whom the drafter has held a regular dialogue in his capacity as Assistant NIO for Europe. He briefed the senior NSC and State Department officers accompanying Deputy Secretary of State Whitehead on his recent trip to Eastern Europe; the issues on their agenda are addressed in the Estimate.

-- The paper benefited from a two-day conference of government and academic specialists on Gorbachev and Eastern Europe, held at Airlie House last summer.

-- The draft also benefited from comments by two outside consultants, Helmut Sonnenfeldt of the Brookings Institution and [redacted]. Both liked the paper, and both offered useful suggestions that have been incorporated into the attached draft.

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3. We would appreciate your comments at your earliest convenience.

*Robert Blackwell*  
Robert Blackwell

Attachment

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SUBJECT: Memo to Senior Review Panel with Draft NIE 11/12-9-88: Soviet Policy  
Toward Eastern Europe Under Gorbachev

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